Department of State **TELEGRAM**

EXCISE

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E
b(1) EO

AN: 0780085-0663

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 EB-08 /084 W
------------------003931 240539Z /16
R 231746Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9873
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 1496
AMEMBASSY NASSAU 1502
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 1736

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY QB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2099
E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: PNP TO AVOID VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

REF: A) KINGSTON A-6 OF JANUARY 14, 1978; B) KINGSTON 2098

1. [redacted] CONFIRMED TO AN EMBASSY b(1) EO
OFFICER ON FEBRUARY 17 THAT WHEN THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) MEETS ON MARCH 4-5 IN ITS "RESUMED" ANNUAL CONFERENCE, IT WILL NOT HOLD VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. RATHER, THE FOUR INCUMBENT VICE-PRESIDENTS--ISAACS, FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON, HOUSING MINISTER TONY SPAULDING AND PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTER HOWARD COOKE--WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THE PARTY HOLDS ITS NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, 1978. (SEE REFTEL B).

2. [redacted] TO SAY THAT HE IS, HIMSELF, SORRY b (1) EO
THAT THE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN ABORTED. HE SAID THAT THE RADICALS COULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SEVERE DRUBBING; AND NOW THEY ARE SPARED THAT EMBARRASSMENT. [redacted] b (1) EO ADDED (APPARENTLY VOICING HIS OWN HOPE) THAT HAD THEY
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BEEN TROUNCED ONCE AGAIN, SOME "RADICALS" MIGHT EVEN

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HAVE LEFT THE PNP. [redacted] SAID THAT HE FEARED THAT THE b(7)EA
DECISION TO ABANDON THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
NOW OFFERS THE "RADICALS" FURTHER TIME TO WORK TO
RE-COUP THE LOSSES THEY SUSTAINED LAST SEPTEMBER
WHEN THE "MODERATES" COALESCED AND GAVE THE "RADICALS"
A THOROUGH BEATING. [redacted] EXPRESSED CONCERN b(1)EA
THAT THEY MIGHT USE THE TIME TO ADVANTAGE.
IRVING

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